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P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 www.sweetwatervalleyca.org

**SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
December 4, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by President Michael Seiler at the Bonita Museum and Cultural Center. President Seiler welcomed everyone, and we were invited to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country followed by a moment of silence to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Fire and Safety Professionals.

Directors Present: Michael Seiler, Tony Tieber, Judy Tieber, Steve Stonehouse, Jim Woodford, Sharmane Estolano, Glen Kopp, Sharon Clayton, Sharon Coleman

Members Present: Dave Corcorin, Lisa M. Goodsell, Jesse Connor, Harriet Taylor, Liz Stonehouse (Museum Liaison),

Guests Present: CHP Officer Mitchell Byrd, Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Chief Michael Sims, Julio Garcia, San Diego County Sheriff Office, Samantha Trickey CM John McCann’s Office City of Chula Vista, David Dullea, Nathan Dullea, Emily Ruocco, Terry Stewart, Rik Hauptfeld

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Steve Stonehouse moved to approve the November 6, 2019, minutes, Tony Tieber provided the second. Minutes approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Stephen Stonehouse reported the December Treasurer’s Report.

	<u>December</u>
Checking	\$ 972.86
Certificate of Deposit	\$3,454.31
Ending Balance	\$4,427.17

Law Enforcement Reports:

CHP Officer Mitchell Byrd reported that due to staffing issues and rain, the CHP did not assign a dedicated officer to the Bonita area. However, we did have a CHP presence that resulted in 11 citations (mostly for running stop signs), handled six traffic collisions, two arrests, and six traffic/parking complaints, and one hit-and-run. Officer Byrd told us the CHP speed trailer was getting fixed up with new batteries, and the plan is to move it to the Bonita area as soon as it is ready. If members let Judy know where they feel it would do the most good, she will relay that information to Officer Byrd.

The Officer reminded us that CHP is starting a new traffic complaint program for residents to call in and talk to a Sr. CHP Volunteer. If you experience speeding in your area, please call it in.

The phone number is: 1-858-293-6000

Sheriff Dept. Crime Prevention Specialist, Julio Garcia reported a low crime rate for Bonita. We had one stolen car and a car break-in near the apartments at Briarwood and Cedar. We were cautioned to keep doors and windows locked in both our homes and vehicles now that the holidays are here. Don't leave anything visible in your vehicles. He passed out a Holiday Safety tips brochure to everyone, and reminded us to not open our doors to strangers. The scammers are out in force during the holidays and always target seniors.

Chula Vista Police Officer: While we did not have an officer present, Samantha Trickey from Councilmember John McCann's office did pass out some year-to-date crime statistics for both Chula Vista as a whole and more specifically for District 1. There were 624 criminal cases filed. The top five crime types: Larceny < \$400 218, Larceny>\$400 191, vehicle thefts 85, residential burglaries 40, aggravated assaults 29. Ms. Trickey reported some good news:

*Chula Vista Police Chief Sally has promised to have an officer attend one SVCA meeting/quarter.

*The Rohr Dog Park is now scheduled for a formal opening in January 2020.

*Frank Riviera has been notified about the right turn through the drainage ditch on Sweetwater at Willow Rd

Harriet Taylor brought up another issue regarding the Willow St. bridge project. We now have the very invasive arundo donex plants growing in the re-landscaped area. We need to have that removed as part of our efforts to clear the plant species out of the riverbed. Ms. Trickey will refer this to the Director of Public Works. We were also told the Memorial Park Starlight Festivities will be this Saturday. Fun starts at 2 p.m. and the parade starts at 5 p.m.

Fire Safety: Bonita Fire Chief Mike Sims reported 136 calls for November. With over 100 dead palms/trees in the riverbed, Bonita Fire partnered with San Diego Fire Authority to apply to Cal Fire for grant funds to cut down the trees. He expects this will be approved and happen sometime next year. The Bonita/Sunnyside FPD, along with most every other FD, is partnering with the Burn Institute to create a Youth Fire Setter program that gets parents of at-risk children the professional help they need to identify, prevent, and treat youths who set fires. The Chief also reported that our Fire Dept now has an ISO rating of 2 which means we have a very good fire department. Sometimes, an ISO rating of 2 can translate into reduced fire insurance premiums for local residents. Chief Sims has hired two new fire fighters who are currently going to Heartland Fire for training. He expects them to start working here in January. Lastly, we were reminded to keep flames away from our Christmas trees.

Elected Representative Reports:

Jessica Mier, from Congresswoman Susan Davis' Office not in attendance.

Victor Avina, from Supervisor Greg Cox's office not in attendance.

Continuing Business:

Mark Kukuchek followed up on brush/tree debris in Morrison Pond area. The CCC worked a whole week to trim and chop up dead trees and brush near Morrison Pond. It now looks very nice, and this issue is now completed.

Regarding Tony Tieber's assigned follow-up with "Keep it Growing", he reported that Richelle Farley has offered to attend an upcoming meeting to explain how she charges for non-standard work requests that exceed our allotted paid hours. She also feels she can do more on-line

marketing for us in an effort to increase membership. Tony told us that, originally, we/SVCA was planning to do our own updates. Sharmane Estolano felt she may be able to help us with that. Tony will contact her after the holidays to discuss since that would go a long way to help us keep costs under control.

Also under continuing business, Harriet Taylor gave an update on commercial truck parking along Central in front of Bonnie Brae Shopping Center and the Bonita Presbyterian Church. Dean Acosta, representing the shopping center, has now responded affirmatively in writing to eliminate commercial parking along Central. Harriet will be forwarding both this letter and one previously received from the church to Victor Avina for action. This issue now resides with the County.

New Business:

Julie Allan, a Bonita resident, attended this meeting to complain that she had not been informed of either the Community Garden or the Bike Park construction. She feels strongly that residents need to be told about these projects well in advance of ground breaking. She does not live within the 500 ft of either project so the County would have no responsibility to notify her. President Seiler encouraged her to join the SVCA so she could keep abreast of County projects.

With the planned campground expansion, our community concerns about fire and traffic will worsen. She feels strongly that we need to stop the County encroachment into our open space. She has a petition for us to sign. The problem is that this concern is coming too late. The campground expansion plans are well underway. Harriet Taylor offered to meet with Julie to discuss her concerns and report back to this group at our February 5th meeting.

Community Forum:

Bonita Alliance-- Lisa Martin Goodsell reported her plan to get the Bonita Alliance subcommittee together by March to start working with Chula Vista Police Dept on the homeless issue.

Traffic/Roads –Tony Tieber introduced Mr. Jesse Connor, who lives within the “S” curve of Proctor Valley Rd. just south of the San Miguel Rd/Proctor Valley Rd intersection. Mr. Connor is a member of the SVCA, works as a fire fighter/paramedic for the San Diego Fire Department, and is extremely concerned about the vehicular speeding and illegal passing that he sees and experiences every day on Proctor Valley Rd. He showed several pictures of:

- speeding cars cutting across the double yellow lines on the curves,
- difficulty making a left turn onto Jonel Way when you cannot see oncoming traffic,
- near rear-end collisions as he waits to turn left into his driveway,
- near impossibility of his neighbor to exit her driveway which is in the middle of the blind curve just south of the bridge.

In addition to the obvious lack of road maintenance (faded/non visible yellow center striping, worn out center reflectors, excessive rain storm debris), the County is not providing for the safety of road users and local residents. The accidents continue to happen without County acknowledgement that something needs to be done. In addition to regular road maintenance, Mr. Connor would like to see a 3-way stop sign for both north and south-bound traffic at Jonel Way. There is plenty of County easement to also install a stop sign at Jonel Way, a private road. This accomplishes two objectives:

- Makes the left turn onto Jonel Way safe for both cars and trucks/trailers.

- Reduces the momentum of vehicular traffic gathering excessive speed as it heads north down the hill past Bonita Meadows Rd and cuts the curve at Jonel Way heading into the “S” curve.

Those present acknowledged that County will “push back” on this solution. However, there is precedent for this in other Bonita neighborhoods such as Bonita Highlands. Mr. Connor will hopefully be able to take this discussion to Planning Group for input. Discussion followed with how to resolve this issue. It comes down to the excessive toll-avoidance traffic. We need to get a 125 toll road representative to attend an upcoming meeting and pressure them to get back on track with their planned promotion. We cannot reduce pressure on SANDAG and our County representatives to fight for toll reduction from San Miguel Ranch Rd to highway 54.

It was also noted that, while the berms were in place along San Miguel Road to deter passing on the right, the “candlesticks” have not been installed. Note: installation occurred a few days after this meeting.

Tony brought in the County resurfacing chart for the Bonita area. For those who want to see it on-line go to: sdcounty.gov DPW Annual Roadway Resurfacing list. Go to page 5 of 5 for Year 3 (FY 19/20) Construction to start summer of 2020. Bonita is listed under Sweetwater.

Planning Group - Steve Stonehouse told us the Sweetwater Community Planning Group did not meet in December.

Membership—Sharon Coleman reviewed membership pricing and gave an update on current membership: Individuals 17; Families 22; Organizations 4; Organizations-gold 1; Silver 2; Gold 13. Sharon will look into attending other community meetings such as the Bonita Highlands Homeowners Association and the upcoming Bonita Alliance meeting.

Sr. Volunteer Patrol - Jim Woodford reported that, as so many volunteers are getting older and cannot drive, the number of patrols have been reduced. Currently they have 17 members, but only 6 could patrol. The weather was too rainy to get the speed trailer out and set up. However, we will now have the CHP speed trailer available. If needed, Judy Tieber will coordinate speed trailer sites with CHP. Mr. Woodford outlined the Sheriff Sr. Volunteer member requirements: Must be 55 or older and able to drive a patrol car for six hours a week, go through a background check, and attend a two-week academy. Volunteers get a uniform and a badge

Sheriff Sr. Volunteer Activities, December 2019

Hours on patrol	120	Number of patrols	10
Number of miles driven	511	Vacation checks	21
YANA visits	0	YANA calls	25
Citizen assists	1	Traffic control	7
Number of volunteers	16	Safety Center hours	36

January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019

Hours on patrol	1,636	Number of patrols	137
Number of miles driven	6,811	Vacation checks	327
YANA visits	7	YANA calls	183
Citizen assists	33	Traffic control	80
Number of volunteers	16	Safety Center hours	571

Trails –Mark Kukuchek reported the Sweetwater Authority construction fencing is in place but rain delayed the digging until the 9th of November. Mark has the contact information for SWA and the contractor so let him know if we have any issues with the project. Tieber Trail creek bed is approved for gravel if in agreement with environmental issues. He also reported that homeless have moved back into Palm Canyon, back into the CALTRANS jungle and back into Chula Vista territory. The homeless count will be done in February 2020.

President Seiler thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Tieber
Secretary, SVCA

Mission Statement: The Sweetwater Valley Civic Association is the direct conduit to local County elected and appointed officials, law enforcement and emergency first responders to discuss and resolve issues directly related to our quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley communities.